APLS International Development Scholarship

Information package and application form

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Application form is attached

# Background

Advanced Paediatric Life Support (APLS) commenced operations in Australia in 1997. The major focus of APLS is to improve the early management of acutely ill and injured children. This is achieved through training and education of health professionals working with acutely ill and injured children.

APLS is a fully incorporated, not-for-profit organisation with its head office located in Melbourne, Victoria. Courses run throughout Australia with outreach work conducted in the Asia-Pacific region (APAC).

In 2004, APLS set up a program to offer an outreach scholarship, the Paediatric Emergency Development Scholarship (PEDS). Its purpose is to support the development of paediatric emergency systems in countries where these are currently in their infancy, and where funds for such activities or for overseas education are limited. In 2024, this scholarship was renamed the APLS International Development Scholarship (AIDS) to recognise the evolution of the program to include development of

Activities which foster and strengthen paediatric emergency community links between Australia and countries of the Asia-Pacific region are acknowledged as important by APLS.

The AIDS program aims to provide the successful applicant with one of the following:

* Support for a short-term (e.g. 2 week) hospital attachment in a nominated specialty area, followed by attendance at an APLS course.
* Support for attendance at an APLS course, Generic Instructor Course (GIC) or Educational Skills Development course (ESDC) in Australia, New Zealand or elsewhere in APAC.

The recipient will be teamed with a local mentor for support and guidance.

# APLS International Development Scholarship

The AIDS is broken down into three areas:

1. Hospital attachment program
2. Mentor program
3. APLS Provider Course and/or GIC, and/or ESDC

## 2.1 Hospital attachment program

A short-term (e.g. 2 week) hospital attachment, in an appropriate discipline, is highly desirable and reinforces the learning experience. Hospital immersion prior to the APLS course would be expected to greatly enhance the participant’s subsequent APLS experience.

Due to Australian medicolegal requirements, successful candidates will not be permitted to have physical contact with patients, and therefore, are unable to examine patients. However, as an Honorary Visiting Fellow, the participant will be able to participate in ward rounds and observe other doctor-patient interactions and assessments.

It may be possible to organise hospital attachments through the International Committee’s links with APLS instructors in children’s hospitals or other appropriate hospitals throughout Australia, New Zealand or other APAC country. Applicants should state whether they would like to avail themselves of this option.

## 2.2 Mentor program

Previous experience has demonstrated that the existence of a mentor is critical to the success of overseas placements. Therefore, an established relationship with a local mentor who is an APLS Instructor is a requirement for every scholarship recipient. The mentor will support the recipient on the course and during the hospital placement and be a first point of contact for issues or problems that may arise.

In circumstances where a specialist is seen to be particularly well-placed to influence paediatric emergency management in their home country, the International Committee may be able to help establish appropriate potential mentor relationships.

## 2.3 APLS course

The receipt of the AIDS will be enrolled in an APLS Provider Course and/or, GIC or ESDC.

# Funding

Funding of AUD $5000-$10000 is available each year to the successful applicant. These funds would be expected to cover:

* Return economy airfares from home country
* Basic accommodation during the course and hospital attachment
* Living costs during hospital attachment
* Associated costs (health insurance/visa etc)

The International Committee reserves the right to award a partial scholarship or no scholarship (if there is no suitable applicant in a given year). Pro-rata funds may be offered depending on the committee’s assessment of individual circumstances and requirements.

# Selection criteria

Preference will be given to submissions from individuals with:

* Base in the APAC
* Core work involves the management of ill or injured children
* Established and demonstrable links to structures (university, hospital/health administration) which could disseminate paediatric emergency training within their community. Awareness of local country infant and child morbidity and mortality, and the pre-hospital and hospital structures available to address these problems, will be important background information
* Documentation of local institutional support will be required
* A demonstrated plan for incorporating APLS teaching or principles into an established local structure will be given preference over an applicant wishing to attend the course for personal benefit only
* Basic English proficiency is a requirement. Previous experience has shown that APLS course participation is difficult for individuals with lower than IELTS 7 English level. Applicants from non-English speaking backgrounds should attach documentation of English proficiency
* A letter of support from an established APLS Instructor mentor willing to supervise a hospital attachment

# Reporting process

Recipients of the AIDS are required to submit a written report to the International Committee within a year of completing the scholarship. A form will be provided, which will invite comments on costs, value, and difficulties experienced, as well as outcomes of any proposed local community development project.

# Closing date for applications

The closing date is October 1, of the calendar year prior to the Scholarship year, and applicants will be notified, in writing, of the outcome of the submission within 1 month of the closing date. Funds will be available from February 1 of the scholarship year.

Application form is attached.APLS International Development Scholarship application form

(This is not an application for the APLS course)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Personal details** |  |
| Title | Mr Mrs Miss | Ms Dr. Prof. |
| First name |  |
| Surname |  |
| Street address |  |
| Postcode |  |
| Email address |  |
| Contact numbers | Work |  |
| Mobile |  |
| **Mentor details** |
| Title | Mr Mrs Miss | Ms Dr. Prof. |
| First name |  |
| Surname |  |
| Contact address |  |
| Email address |  |
| Contact numbers | Work |  |
| Mobile |  |
| **Professional details** |
| Current position held |  |  |
| Work address |  |
| Specialty/Subspecialty |  |
| Areas of work | AnaesthesiaEmergencyPaediatricsPublic HealthOther (specify) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |  |
| Preferred course(See APLS course calendar on website) | First choice:Second choice: |
| Hospital attachment:I am available for Hospital Attachment for 2 weeks prior to APLS Course. | Yes |
| No (Please explain) |  |
| Special Requirements |
| Flights | Preferred flights |
| Accommodation | Duration of stay \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |
|  Accommodation required for (please specify dates) |
|  Do not require accommodation |
| **Documentation** |
| Please attach to AIDS application | Letter of support from hospital |
|  | Letter of support from mentor |
|  | National PaediatricMorbidity/Mortality Overview(1000 words plus relevant references)[[1]](#footnote-2) |
|  | Plan for incorporating APLS teaching into local country[[2]](#footnote-3) |
|  | English proficiency ≥ ILS 7 English Level Certification |
|  | Curriculum Vitae |
|  | Professional references × 2 |
|  | Photocopy of passport |

1. **NB: Successful candidates will be required to provide photocopies of medical certificates and specialist qualification/s with official translation.**

 A brief summary of e.g. Recent maternal, infant and paediatric mortality rates and major causes, regional variations in health care and delivery, system of medical/paediatric training and emergency response systems. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. Summarise why your background and position make you suitable for this scholarship and what you intend to do with the experience and knowledge gained. Links to an existing system of medical training through which APLS might be set up, and/or a plan for translation of materials where necessary, should be stated e.g. previous recipients of financial support from APLS Australia have done so in exchange for translation of APLS material for local distribution. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)